(c) the action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE):(a) to (c) Yes, Sir. IFCI has requested for debarring of one of the prospective bidders on account of default in payment obligations. The Ministry's existing Guidelines for Disqualification of Bidders, do not list default with respect to repayment obligations by itself as a reason for disqualification.

Disinvestment process

2544. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "India must push reforms, says IMF", which appeared in the Times of India, dated the 28th November, 2002;

(b) whether present reform and disinvestment process are being done at the directive of IMF; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) No, Sir. There does not appear to be such a news-item in the Times of India, dated the 28th November, 2002. However, such a news-item has appeared in the Times of India, dated 28th September, 2002.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The policy on disinvestment has evolved over a decade in response to the changing economic scenario and the emergent need to put national assets to optimal use and to unleash the productive potential inherent in public-sector enterprises.

Post-closure adjustment claim

2545. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that M/s Zuari Maroc Pvt. Ltd. the strategic partner of Paradeep Phosphates has filed a post-closure adjustment claim of Rs. 151.55 crores;